



Threshold

December 10, 2019



**Newsletter for the Historical Recovery Association of North Florida
Dedicated to the Hobbies of Metal Detecting and Treasure Hunting**

Announcements:

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Time: 6:30 PM

**Location: Piccadilly Restaurant
3216 South University Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32216 (904) 721-2872**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To borrow from the words of a "real" President, "The state of our club is strong!!" First, we have a strong membership. Members are getting more involved and giving more of their time as volunteers. Members are arranging club hunts. Members are attending these hunts. Our financial position has recovered from the overspending practices of previous years. Our monthly demonstrations are informative and enjoyable. Many of our members show up early for every meeting to have dinner together. In essence, our club is very healthy.

Powell Mock has stepped up in a big way lately. First, he arranged the group hunt at his brother-in-law's ranch in Picolata. 21 of us took advantage of this permission, which we think was a new club record. And, he thinks we will be able to return to search another portion of the ranch in the near future. Plus, Powell responded to my request for a volunteer to take over responsibility for setting up the next annual club hunt early next year. More info to come soon.

Our newest member, John Silling, introduced himself with a bang. He joined us at the Picolata hunt, paid his dues immediately, then made one of the largest donations the club has received to date. He donated a collectible knife, a brand new XP pinpointer, a Titanic commemorative coin, and a couple of sets of mint coins. He has also said he may add to his donation as he goes through his late father's possessions. Welcome to the club, John, and thank you for your generosity and eagerness to volunteer.

Every meeting I ask you what you think might make the club better for you. I seldom get any suggestions. I know you all say you are satisfied with the club's activities, especially now that we are arranging more club hunts. But, I still want you to give us some ideas of things you would like to see. Think about it, maybe look at the websites of some other clubs to see what they are doing, then bring us some suggestions at the next meeting.

And, finally, thank you for the confidence you expressed in your current Board by reelecting us for another year. We have worked hard to get the club's finances back on track, arranging more club hunts, and putting a punch in the monthly presentations (thanks entirely to Chip). We don't have any plans to make the club bigger, more famous, or richer. You have indicated in the past that you think the club is right-sized, so we intend to focus on making the club more pertinent to your interests and needs.

Don't forget to join us for the first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 14. Why not come early and join us for dinner and a little relaxed conversation before the madness begins. I will be making a presentation on testing your finds for the content of gold, silver, platinum, diamonds and Moissanite. I look forward to seeing you then. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Bob

As you know, each month we hold a finds competition. You, the members, vote on each category, and you choose the winners. You decide what attracts you more to a particular object than the others, and you vote for that one. So, these awards are chosen, not by meeting or surpassing the requirements of a technical checklist, but by attracting the interest of the most members. These are truly awards of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The award for the winner in each category will be a beautiful certificate and a silver half dollar. The winner in the Best Hunter category will get a silver dollar.

Last year the Board decided to issue only one award to any member. Ed Feathers tabulated the points earned by each member during the year and created a spreadsheet. He then ranked the members for each category, and we chose one member with the most points in each of them. If he/she had already earned an award, we went down to the next highest total, etc.



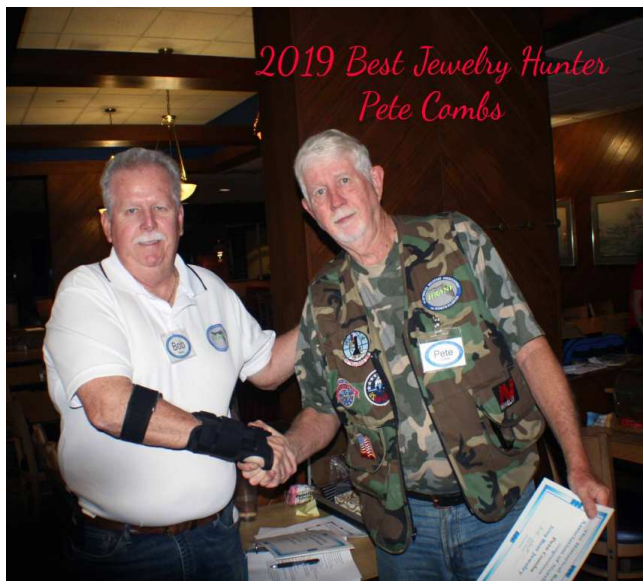
When our next winner is metal detecting, he is so focused I don't think he even knows the rest of us are around. Eyes always to the ground, listening intently for that scratchy beep that will lead him to a small chunk of gold. But, as you can see by the wide variety of things he has discovered, he must dig every signal. Please congratulate the 2019 winner in the Best Miscellaneous category, Larry McDonald.



I am pleased that the winner of the Best Relics award is a relative newcomer to our club! He disproves the notion that you have to be an old timer, or a member of the Board to win an award. He is one of the most enthusiastic members of our club, so please congratulate Mickey Cecil.



This year, your Board expanded the Tokens category to also include buttons. I sometimes think our next winner has lost his buttons. So, let's award him with a "token" of our admiration (see what I did there?). Please congratulate the winner in the Best Tokens category, one of your hardest working Board members, and the one who keeps me straight, your club Secretary, Ed Feathers.



Our first award is for the category of “Best Jewelry”. The winner knows a lot about this contest. In fact, he is responsible for managing all aspects of the Finds Competition each month. Please congratulate the winner of the 2019 award in the Best Jewelry category, your Vice President, Pete Combs.



The winner in the Coins category spends a lot of time on his knees. A great deal of his knee time is while he is digging up yet another zinc penny to add to his growing collection. Not enough of his knee time is spent in prayer and meditation. Maybe more of this kind of knee time would lead to more success at finding an elusive 1943S copper penny! He is also someone who did not learn to never volunteer for anything while in the service. He has raised his hand so many times,

he has wound up being in a leadership position in every organization he has ever joined. Maybe that’s what lead to the wrist and elbow braces he is wearing now!

So, the 2019 Best Coins award goes to, ME!(Bob Hunt)

Award presented by VP Pete Combs



The next category was a tough one to decide. We only have 2 hunters in the Youth category, Brett and Marshall. But, due to scholastic and extracurricular activities that conflict with our meetings, Brett hasn’t had much time to participate in our hobby this year. So guess who that leaves to win the category of Best Youth? Seriously though, I have watched Marshall while he is detecting. He shows great focus and enthusiasm, asks us old timers for advice, and has been very successful at bringing in some amazing finds for each meeting. I have no doubt he would be a winner in any other category if he competed in the senior categories. He is also very lucky to have the support of his mother, and we are lucky to have her as our Treasurer. I am proud to have him as the youngest member of our club, and amazed that he would even hang around this motley bunch of old men.

Please congratulate this year’s winner in the Youth category, Marshall Reich.

Accepting the award for Marshall is Debbie Reich.



The winner of the award for overall Best Hunter will probably come as no surprise to you. He is the consummate hunter, going out almost every day, digging almost every signal, researches property, knocks on doors to ask for permission, researches the history of his finds, has stories published about his finds and lectures on the history of his finds. And, perhaps most importantly, has found the original owners of some of his finds and returned them without charge.

If we were not limiting awards to a single award per member, he would have won 4 individual awards, in addition to Best Hunter. He also is an advisor to the Board, has served as Huntmaster, and is currently in charge of the monthly presentations.

Let's all congratulate the 2019 Best Overall Hunter, Chip Kirkpatrick.

Newsletter Articles

If you like to see more articles in the newsletter, I need help. Please send me any metal detecting stories you would like to share with the club members. You can also share information from articles you have read but please put it in your words so we can avoid any copyright violations. My email address is tsayre@sayresstash.com.

HRANF Secretary Report for December 10, 2019

Meeting was held on the above date at Piccadilly Restaurant, 3216 University Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida.

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by President Bob Hunt who led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked everyone to sign in at registration table. New member John Silling introduced himself. Total attendance was 31.

Next, monthly reports:

Secretary-- Ed Feathers has a copy of last month's minutes if anyone would like to read it.

Merchandise Sales Coordinator—Loren Gay introduced a new product, a sleeve-less, maximum coolness T shirt.

Everyone thanked Loren for coordinating this project.

Treasurer—Debi Reich reported a cash balance of \$1,385.47.

Newsletter Editor—Terry Sayre repeated his request for members to send him a personal story about their metal detecting experiences.

Hunt Master—Position remains unfilled.

Next, general business:

- (1) Morocco Shrine Center— Ed Feathers is waiting for confirmation of a hunt tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020. More details to follow.
- (2) Election of Officers-by acclamation, the membership elected the following: Bob Hunt, President; Pete Combs, Vice President; Ed Feathers, Secretary; and Debi Reich, Treasurer.
- (3) Advisory Committee-Board of Directors appointed Chip Kirkpatrick and Terry Sayre to serve on the Committee.
- (4) St Augustine Club Hunt-21 members attended the hunt off CR 208 in west St. Augustine held on Saturday, November 23. Everyone thanked Powell Mock for arranging the permission.
- (5) Category and Best Hunter of the Year Award Winners were as follows: Chip Kirkpatrick, Hunter of the Year; Bob Hunt, Coins; Pete Combs, Jewelry; Mickey Cecil, Relics; Ed Feathers, Tokens/Buttons; Larry McDonald, Miscellaneous; and Marshall Reich, Youth. Each winner received a certificate and a silver coin.
- (6) Hunt the 27th—Dianna Watkins held hunts at 2 different sites in November. The hunts are open to the public and the next one will be December 27. Look for clues on Dianna's web site.
- (7) ID Name Badge—Dianna Watkins' name was drawn. Dianna was wearing her name badge and received an 1811 British ½ penny donated by Ivan Salis.
- (8) Annual Club Hunt-Powell Mock volunteered to chair the committee. Everyone thanked Powell for stepping forward. President Hunt presented 4-5 items (set of mint coins, commemorative coin, etc.) donated by John Silling for use as prizes. Everyone thanked John for his generosity.
- (9) Birthdays and anniversaries – None.
- (10)Returns and Permissions-None.
- (11) Miscellaneous-President Hunt discussed (a) chemical test for gold he performed on a member's ring and (b) future publication of a President's Report.
- (12)Member Short Stories-numerous members showed their finds and described any historical significance or unusual circumstances. Going forward, 1 member per meeting will be asked to relate an experience.
- (13)Christmas dessert-club provided a variety of desserts and refreshments at which time President Hunt wished everyone "Happy Holidays".
- (14) President Hunt conducted the 50-50 raffle. Winner received \$42.

There was no Finds Competition this month. Items found since November 12 can be submitted at the January meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Ed Feathers, Secretary